

CJ 3311 Ethics of Social Control
Spring 2014 Written Paper Guidelines

Written Paper (95 points maximum):

Using a current news event relevant to the criminal justice system, you will (1) identify some of the ethical issues involved in the story and (2) discuss them from each of the three major ethical schools of thought.

1. The basic question:

How could virtue ethics, formalism, and utilitarianism be applied to a news event related to criminal justice?

2. The process:

(a) Using local, national, or international news sources, choose a news article related to criminal justice. Post the citation information for your chosen article in the "Written paper articles" thread in the Discussion section on the course website so that no one else will be able to use the same news article.

(b) Identify the ethical dilemma(s) within the article.

(c) Discuss the dilemma(s) from the perspective of each of the three major ethical schools of thought.

3. The finished product:

5 - 7 pages, in addition to the references list

No title page is required—type your name in the header of the document

1 inch margins (top, bottom, left, right)

Abstract and running heads are *not* necessary

Page numbers in upper right-hand corner, including the first page

12 pt. Times New Roman font

Double spacing

Use headings and subheadings

Use correct APA style

References list

In-text citations

4. The references list:

You should use a minimum of 5 sources, 2 of which should be professional journal articles. One source will obviously be your news article.

Do not use Wiki-anything as a source. *Ever*. For *any* reason.

Use **political** websites (politically motivated or agenda-driven) *as factual sources in and of themselves with caution*. However, they may be cited as sources documenting controversies associated with your criminal justice-related news article (if applicable). If you are uncertain about whether a source **is** appropriate, email me a link and I will give you guidance.

5. Grading Criteria:

95 maximum points possible

95 = A; 85 = B; 75 = C; 65 = D; 55 = F

You **will** be evaluated based on how well your paper includes the following:

Final product

APA style (refs list, in-text citations)

Spelling/grammar

Headings/subheadings used

Minimum of 2 professional journal articles used

Content/substance of paper

Appropriate news article chosen

Summary of news event (no more than 1 page)

Identification and explanation of ethical dilemma(s) (no more 1 page).

Explanation of 3 major ethical schools of thought

Application of 3 major ethical schools of thought to ethical dilemma(s)

DO NOT USE DIRECT QUOTES FROM YOUR SOURCES.

6. Things to consider:

Recall the opinion article about Sheriff Dupnik. You were asked **first** to identify *general* criminal justice issues raised in the article. Some of those general issues included:

*mentally ill suspects in the criminal justice system (insanity/fit for trial)

*drug diversion programs

*investigation of death threats

*gun laws

*election of law enforcement officials

You were then asked to identify *ethical* issues/dilemmas that arose in connection with Sheriff Dupnik's actions. Some of those included:

*injecting politics into law enforcement

*use/misuse of the media during an investigation

*theorizing publicly about motive without proof

*tainting jury pools

*balancing freedom of speech with the rule of law

This could be a good way to get started on your paper once you find your article. **HINT: Choose an article that makes it easy to identify ethical dilemmas.** I have posted several articles in the "In the news..." folder on the course home page as examples of news events that present criminal justice-related ethical dilemmas. **You may not use any of the articles I have posted as your article.**

Be sure to include an introduction and conclusion in your paper.

Be sure to paraphrase instead of using direct quotes from your sources.

At *any* point during the process of preparing your paper, ask questions if you are unsure of what to do. Do this *sooner* rather than *later*.

7. A note on finding sources from professional journals:

I recommend using Academic Search Complete because you may find a news event that presents ethical dilemmas for which it might not be easy to find articles in traditional criminal justice journals. For example, you might find an article where one student commits a crime against another student. You may need to look in education-related professional journals in order to find an article about ethics in school situations. Also, you may have to get creative with your search terms. Take a look at the screenshots below, and note how I set up my search (**red arrows**).

The screenshot shows the University of Houston Downtown Research Guides website. The header includes the UHD logo and the text "Research Guides". A navigation bar shows "Library > Research Guides > Databases A - Z". Below this, a section titled "Databases A - Z" lists various databases. A red arrow points to "Academic Search Complete" in the list. To the right of the database list, there is a "Chat with a Librarian" section and a "Library Research Tools" section. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the text "Last Updated: Jul 26, 2012" and a URL: "http://library.uhd.edu/databases".

New Search | Subject Terms | Publications | Images | More | Sign In | Folder | Preferences | Languages | New Features! | Help

EBSCO Academic Search Complete, Show all | Choose Databases

ethics in TI Title Search Clear

OR ethical in TI Title

AND crim* in Select a Field (optional) Add Row

Basic Search | Advanced Search | Visual Search | Search History

Search Options Reset

Search modes

- ☒ Boolean/Phrase
- ☐ Find all my search terms
- ☐ Find any of my search terms
- ☐ SmartText Searching [Hint](#)

Apply related words ☒

Also search within the full text of the articles ☒

Limit your results

Full Text ☒

Publication

Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals ☒

Published Date from

January Year: 2000 to August Year: 2011

New Search | Subject Terms | Publications | Images | More | Sign In | Folder | Preferences | Languages | New Features! | Help

EBSCO Academic Search Complete, Show all | Choose Databases

ethics in TI Title Search Clear

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AND crim* in Select a Field (optional) Add Row

Basic Search | Advanced Search | Visual Search | Search History

8619 Results for...

Refine your results

- ☒ Full Text
- ☒ Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals

2000 Publication Date 2011

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Source Types

Page: 1 2 3 4 5 Next Relevance Sort Page Options Alert / Save / Share

1. Creativity and Ethics: The Relationship of Creative and Ethical Problem-Solving.

By: Mumford, Michael D.; Waples, Ethan P.; Antes, Alison L.; Brown, Ryan P.; Connelly, Shane; Murphy, Stephen T.; Devenport, Lynn D.. Creativity Research Journal, 2010, Vol. 22 Issue 1, p74-89, 16p, 6 Charts; DOI: 10.1080/10400410903579619

Subjects: CREATIVE ability; ETHICS; DOCTORAL students; CRIME; MENTAL illness; CREATIVE thinking; DEVIANT behavior; DECISION making; PROFESSIONAL practice; PROBLEM solving

Database: Academic Search Complete

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